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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

NY Lawyer Brings Attack On Warren Report to BH

Former New York State Assemblyman Mark Lane, who has been carrying on a coast to coast attack on the Warren Commission and its findings, came to town this week and bluntly charged that the report on the Kennedy assassination was "an absolute fraud."

He will cap his five day visit to California by participation in a panel debate Friday evening at the B.H. H.S. auditorium at 8 p.m. with three other attorneys including Joseph Ball, chief trial counsel for the Commission.

Lane, a young lawyer, held a lengthy press conference this Wednesday and afterwards granted an exclusive interview to the BHT. Lane charges that the commission of testimony from key witnesses to the Dallas slaying makes the Warren Report "inconclusive."

He said that "I think the Warren Commission's Report now in 26 volumes does prove that the person or persons who killed President Kennedy are still at large and that officer Tippitt was not killed by Oswald and the government knows this. The American people deserve to know the full truth and we (Lane and his sponsoring group — Citizens Committee of Inquiry) will at-



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tempt to find it and report it to the nation."

On the matter of omission, Lane did agree with newsmen at his press conference that by saying the Commission Report was a fraud he means that he thinks it was by design. "I don't know why it was done this way. I don't know who was behind it and would not offer any conjecture without proof. I only know that the full truth has not been told."

Lane's sponsors have hired a team of private investigators who have been to Dallas a number of times. They have found many loopholes, he asserts.

He told the Times that the Warren Report in its full transcript contains a statement from one of the physicians who performed the autopsy on the President that he burned his original notes. No reason was given as to why this was done.

He further contended that a number of eye witnesses to the assassination were never called to testify before the Commission.

The famous picture, supposedly taken at the time of the murder on the ground level near the Texas Book Depository, was cited by Lane as an

other flaw in the Warren Commission Report. This picture which asserted that Oswald was standing in a small crowd was denied by the Commission which said the man was not actually Oswald but in reality a man named Loverly. Lane says that it is known that Loverly was not there at that time on that day.

Lane further said that the ballistics report disproves the Commission's contention that all shots came from the sixth floor window of the Depository Building. The gun, an Italian Carbine, could not, he says, be fired in less than two seconds repeatedly, as the Commission asserted it had in order to fire the full three shots.

The New York lawyer is convinced from testimony of those he says are eye witnesses that the fatal shot came from the right front grassy slope at which the President was gazing when assassinated, and not the rear.

When asked if he was aware of the seriousness of the charges made against not only the Commission but also the Chief Justice of the United States, he replied that it would not be the first time that "high government officials have made statements they knew to be untrue for policy reason." As an example he cited the instance when UN Ambassador Adlai Stevenson, just before the Cuban Missile Crisis, stated that the U.S. had no observing flights over Cuba.

Lane contends that Jack Ruby, the convicted slayer of Lee Harvey Oswald, did meet with Officer Tippitt and was seen doing so. He also contends that the movements of Ruby on Nov. 22 have not been fully explored. He says that the Warren Commission called 33 witnesses that were carefully se-

lected. I have called more than that in a simple legal matter.

Lane, retained at one point by Mrs. Marguerite Oswald and still not having been fired from that assignment, has testified twice before the Warren Commission.

As to whether the shots came from the front or the rear, Lane contends that three physicians, Drs. Park, Perry and McLellan, all agreed that "they indeed were fired from the front."

According to Lane there were several people in the vicinity of the assassination site whose testimony would have materi-

ally "aided in finding the truth of that day in Dallas." He listed them as Mary Moorman, who was standing alongside the Presidential car; a Mr. Weisman who claims the shot came from the grassy slope in front of the President; Mr. Campbell, manager of the School Book Depository who says the shot did not come from the building.

The Committee which now sponsors Lane's quest for the answer to the Dallas tragedy has come into question. This reporter asked for key members of the group. He listed Dick Gregory, famed comedian; Harold Feldman; Arthur Gross, attorney and active member of the American Civil Liberties Union, and Andrew Hacker, member of the Cornell University faculty.

Lane told the Times he gave up his New York law practice to devote full time to this current activity. He said he receives seventy dollars per week for compensation and his travel. Expenses are paid for by the group that invites him to lecture.

He denied any connection with either subversive or even left wing organizations. He said that most of the contributions received by his sponsoring Committee come from the far right, who he contends do not accept the findings of the Warren Commission because of their opposition to Earl Warren himself.

The bespectacled, dark haired attorney has been to Dallas five times and gone over the ground of the assassination and the murder of officer Tibbitt. When asked if any official of the Federal Government had intimidated him he replied "No, not directly. I was threatened with protection by the Dallas police at one point. The FBI did demand that I turn over to them any evidence our group has found."

On the matter of public acceptance of the Warren Commission findings, Lane pointed to the 45 per cent (according to a national poll) that didn't accept the findings and "in

...for example the deletion of the
statement of Mrs. Jacqueline
Kennedy, the only real key
witness to the assassination, is
unwarranted. It should be told
in its entirety."

Last week prominent Los
Angeles attorney Joseph P. Kamp
spoke to the Beverly Hills
Association on the Warren
report and when asked about
Mark Lane, he replied with
some heat. "Mr. Lane appeared
in my office and he never showed
anything to us but newspaper
clippings."

With this kind of background
the confrontation between the
two men Friday should prove
interesting if not illuminating.
Mark Lane did not dispute
the charges that many people
have made about the assassination.
On the other hand some additional
charges were made but he refused
to comment on them but said that would
be done.

The dialogue will probably
last for many years.